

Eight Uncles 201

Chapter 201 Raised As A Vegetarian

A woman in a wedding dress was stooping outside the door as if trying to peek inside the room.

They just so happened to be inches apart when Zachary peered out.

Zachary was startled. He abruptly jumped up and held his breath before realizing it was all a dream. He was terrified.

Zachary found himself in a dark place. He thought he heard rustling outside in the hallway, which had dim lights. Zachary had a hard time telling whether he was awake or dreaming.

When one had multiple dreams back-to-back or dreams within dreams, it was impossible to wake up. Zachary could not take it anymore. Instead of getting up to turn on the lights or peek outside as he did in the dream, he gritted his teeth, picked up the phone on the bedside table, and made a call.

When Lilly's smartwatch rang, she was sleeping soundly. She groggily opened her eyes and said, "Hello. Who is it?"

Lilly did not have Zachary's number. She rubbed her eyes adorably.

Zachary's voice could be heard coming from the other end. He asked, "Hmm...Can you please come to my room?"

Lilly responded, "Huh?"

She gradually woke up and realized that the caller was Zachary. The young girl got out of bed right away and said, "I'm coming. I'll be right there. I'm stepping out of my room and moving down the hallway. I'm almost there, about to reach your door anytime now."

Zachary listened to the phone in a daze. He woke Lilly from her sleep, but surprisingly, she did not get upset.

Her voice was soft and gentle, as if she were worried that he was scared. She continued to hold the smartphone as she talked and walked down the hallway. Her voice could be heard both on the phone and outside in the corridor.

Then Zachary heard a click; Lilly had turned on the light. Zachary tightly closed his eyes and put a hand over them. He saw Sweet Pea running in his direction while he was in a daze. She sprinted and quickly climbed onto his bed.

"Zac, did you have a nightmare again?" Lilly sat down next to him and questioned him.

Zachary remained silent for a brief period.

Lilly reassured him as she patted his back, "Don't be scared. I'm with you."

Zachary spoke as he pursed his lips, "Do you think it's ridiculous?"

"Huh? No, Zac, it's not ridiculous. You're seven years old. What's wrong with being afraid at your age? It's normal to wet your bed too," Lilly replied.

Zachary was stunned by her reply. He thought to himself. I appreciate your kind words, but please stop doing so in the future.

Zachary lay down on the bed with a sulky expression. He appeared to be unwilling to speak to her by turning his face to the wall, but he accepted when Lilly patted him on the back.

Lilly paid this little attention. She yawned as she reclined next to him. She immediately fell asleep after that.

Zachary was rendered speechless. He wondered. Did she fall asleep just like that? Is she going to stop patting my back?

Perhaps one would always be vulnerable in the wee hours. Zachary turned around cautiously. He pursed his lips and turned to face the sweet pea in front of him.

Everything about her was chubby and cute, including her pink nose, rosy cheeks, and lips. She looked harmless. The girl placed her hand under her cheek while she fell asleep, showing that she trusted Zachary completely.

Zachary murmured to himself before falling asleep and closing his eyes. He experienced a sense of security he had never known before with Lilly by his side. He had a restful sleep that night.

Zachary was the first to awaken the following morning. He saw Lilly sleeping soundly with her head tilted back. Her body took the form of an "A," with her feet resting on his tummy.

Zachary frowned. Out of irritation, he poked her foot and moved it. Lilly appeared not to be disturbed in the least. She placed her foot on Zachary's tummy again.

Zachary was speechless. He removed her foot once again.

Even in her sleep, Lilly appeared to be upset. She firmly rested her foot against Zachary's stomach this time. It gave Zachary the impression that an elephant had just stepped on him. His eyes grew wide as he exclaimed, "Oh my..."

Lilly woke up immediately. She sat up groggily while rubbing her eyes. She asked, "Zac, what's wrong?"

Even though the foot was small, it was incredibly heavy.

Zachary glared at her and hissed, "Did you grow up eating iron?"

Lilly looked confused, and she explained, "No, I grew up eating vegetables."

Zachary admitted his defeat, saying, "Alright, I give up."

Lilly blinked her eyes in confusion.

I didn't say anything wrong. I hardly ever eat meat back in South City. The maid would pack up any leftovers at the Hatchers and take the food home, leaving me with the vegetables they didn't want.

Lilly rubbed her cheek. She stretched her back and got to her feet. She said, "Oh la la, I slept so well. Good morning, Mr. Sun."

Zachary walked briskly toward the door. He had an oddly awkward expression on his face.

I can't let anyone know that I called Lilly in the middle of the night because I was scared. If they did, how am I going to keep my reputation?

The annoying green parrot suddenly flew out at this precise moment. It flapped its wings and cried out in a loud voice, "Help! help! A person is missing! She's disappeared! She's gone!"

Edward was the first to be run over. He shouted incredibly loudly, "Where's Lilly? Lilly!"

Lilly emerged from the room barefoot. She looked around in confusion and said, "I'm here."

Everyone was stunned.

"Why did you come out from Zachary's room?"

Lilly said, "I..."

She noticed Zachary's red ears; he also pursed his lips and averted his gaze. She said, "I sleepwalked."

Zachary confirmed with a nod, "She sleepwalked to my room."

Everyone gets the picture now.

"Ohh..."

Polly flew onto Lilly's shoulder. It tilted its head and yelled, "Bullshit! You're a terrible liar!"

Zachary was rendered speechless when the parrot exposed their lies.

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After breakfast, Zachary finally told Lilly that he had indeed witnessed a paranormal event, though it had occurred in a dream.

Lilly asked in surprise, "This incident happened to you when you saw that photo?"

Suppose you came across a fatal accident on the road. The best course of action is to leave the area right away rather than join the crowd to check it out. If you linger there for some time, the deceased may decide to make you a target, and its spirit will follow you home.

The master once informed Lilly of a case. The victim of a car accident was lying on the ground, covered by cloth. A man came across the incident and he glanced at the corpse briefly out of curiosity. He unintentionally saw the deceased's face when the wind blew the blue cloth away. After that, the deceased started to haunt this man.

Lilly rubbed her head and appeared perplexed after hearing Zachary's description. All Zac did yesterday was glance at the picture, but a lot of people had already seen it.

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"One can get haunted by looking at a photo," Pablo's voice was heard from the side.

Lilly exclaimed in delight, "Master, you are back!"

Zachary frowned when he saw this.

It appeared as though Lilly was listening intently to someone before she turned to him and told him sternly, "It's possible to bring you bad luck by looking at the photo. Thankfully, bad luck gets you instead of a vanity aura."

Upon hearing Lilly's response, Zachary was at a loss for words. Could everyone who sees the picture have bad luck? What a ridiculous explanation.

Zachary rolled his eyes and walked away.

Pablo said, "Lilly, it's been two days since I've been chasing after that malignant spirit, but I can't catch it. It's too cunning."

Lilly questioned, "Given that it was so cunning, is it a slick ghost?"

Pablo exclaimed, "Your guess is spot on!"

Lilly said thrillingly, "I'm amazing!"

Pablo's mouth twitched, and he continued, "That slick ghost is not that easy to deal with. It has been around for at least a century. It only possesses the souls of the dead; it does not possess living beings. It makes it much more difficult for us to track him down and capture him."

"Why doesn't it just eat it directly if it possesses a spirit?" Lilly questioned.

Lilly reasoned. It can grow fatter and more powerful by devouring the spirits.

Pablo explained, "That's how cunning it is. It continually cultivates resentful spirits. It then instructed those resentful spirits to seek out people whose birth charts match their own."

Lilly nodded in understanding before adding, "So it's like finding a group of spirits that works for him."

Pablo was in awe.

Her reason is accurate. Not only is that malignant spirit cunning, but it's very powerful too. The most problematic part is that Lilly is now its target. Motherf*cker! How dare it pick on Little Hades?

When Pablo opened a book, a new line of red text appeared below Lilly's name. He was deeply worried when he saw that.

Chapter 202 I Also Receive Some Gifts

The Requiem Manuscript was a book that documented the lives and deaths of mortals. Their karma from the past and present were intertwined. It keeps a record of mortal behavior in the past and future. Everything is predetermined before a person is even born.

When Pablo flipped the pages of the thin manuscript that recorded the destinies of countless beings, he found a new line of red text that appeared beneath Lilly's name and read, "The test of Inner Demons, cannot rely on external assistance".

Pablo frowned and thought to himself.

What kind of inner demons could a three-year-old child have? Given that it was in red font, this must be a serious matter. Not only that, but I couldn't provide any help either. Worst of all, her foe is a slick ghost!

Lilly asked, "Master, why is that slick ghost targeting us?"

Uncle Jonas was the first victim, and now Zac is the second.

Pablo shook his head and explained, "He's not targeting other people, but you."

Lilly was puzzled.

If it's targeting me, it should come after me. Why would that ghost go after Uncle Jonas and Zac?

Lilly decided to have a heart-to-heart conversation with that slick ghost later. After all, if one were to be a ghost, one should be upholding a standard of conduct.

"I need to do a divination to find where that slick ghost is hiding," Lilly murmured to herself.

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The little one ran outside and grabbed the tortoise that was enjoying the sun on the rockery near the garden fountain. When Little Lilly flipped the tortoise around, she exclaimed, "Haha!"

The old tortoise remained calm throughout. It lies flat on all four legs, with its head and tail both resting comfortably outside of its shell as it narrows its eyes.

Polly stood on the side. The parrot waited for the moment the tortoise extended its head and stretched its neck to peck at the tortoise.

Lilly grabbed Polly and placed it on her shoulder. She sternly warned, "Polly, you can't cause trouble, okay?"

Pablo looked at Lilly, who was squatting and tossing Tortoise in front of it. She appeared sweet and innocent, and there was no sign of worry in her clear, unclouded eyes.

Maybe things aren't as serious as I assume?

Mr. Tortoise spun around on the ground and finally came to a stop.

Lilly extended her index finger and made a gesture. She asked, "Mr. Tortoise, that slick ghost is in South City, right?"

Mr. Tortoise remained silent, but Polly wagged its head as if it had understood everything. Polly exclaimed, "It says yes, yes, yes!"

"Mm-hmm, I get it now," Lilly said with a nod.

Pablo was tongue-tied. In actuality, he had haunted that slick ghost all the way to the South City; that place was its last known location. It appeared as though they had to go there.

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Bryson went home in the evening of the second day of Midsummer's Day. The sweet scent of cake permeated the entire house. The strawberry cupcakes were baked in the oven.

Lilly filled those cupcakes into a small basket. She counted out loud, "One, two, five, ten, eleven."

Blake held the lid of the oven while he leaned against the kitchen island. He asked, "Can you finish so many cakes?"

Lilly nodded and answered, "Uncle Bryson said he wants to eat eleven."

Blake pursed his lips and secretly thought in his mind. Given that he made Lilly work so hard and personally served him the cake, Bryson had better be able to eat all of it.

Bryson was at the kitchen door. When he overheard this, he could not help but smile. The little one remembered this clearly.

"Lilly," Bryson called out to the little girl with a warm and pleasant voice.

Lilly turned around, and she saw Bryson in a pilot's uniform. Her eyes immediately lit up. She said, "Wow, Uncle Bryson looks so handsome!"

Blake thought to himself. Tsk, am I not worthy of my daughter's attention?

Lilly handed the basket to Bryson and looked proud of her achievement. She exclaimed, "Uncle Bryson, here are eleven cupcakes for you!"

The basket had been completely filled by her.

Bryson could not help but pick Lilly up from the ground. He took out an exquisite little gift box and said, "I have a gift for you."

Lilly exclaimed in surprise, "Wow!"

I have a gift.

"Thank you, Uncle Bryson! Uncle Bryson is the best!" Lilly thanked Bryson and gave him a warm neck hug.

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Following Pablo's advice, Lilly mentioned that she wanted to go to South City during dinner.

Bettany quickly put down her spoon and quickly turned it down. She asked, "No way. And you even plan to travel by yourself? Are you kidding me?"

Lilly explained, "I'm not alone. I'll travel with Zac."

The family reached an anonymous opinion when she mentioned Zachary. How absurd would it be for one child to accompany another child to travel to such a faraway city?

Zachary sneered, "Haha!"

I wouldn't go even if they asked me to!

After setting his plate and cutlery down, Zachary returned immediately to his room.

When Lilly saw that everyone disagreed with her travel plan, The little girl spoke with the fiercest expression while using the cutest words. She pulled a long face and pleaded fiercely, “I’m begging you! Please agree with my request!”

Ultimately, Blake stepped in and succeeded in persuading everyone.

Bettany wheeled herself into Lilly’s room that night. She urged, “Lilly, this is an amulet I inherited from my great-great-grandmother. I want you to have this.”

It was a mugwort herb bag that was often worn by the babies. Bettany had always considered it a sentimental heirloom. The herb had no value in itself, but the bag—made with exquisite embroidery by Bettany’s great, great grandmother—was one of a kind.

“Thank you, Granny!” Lilly expressed her gratitude and kissed Bettany on the cheek.

Lilly reminded her, “Granny, don’t be too eager to stand up! You must hold back until you feel something with your feet.”

Actually, she was itching to get up and wanted to go for a run, but Bettany lovingly patted her head and said, “Okay, okay!”

Shortly after, Anthony entered her room with a box. He opened the box and set it in front of Lilly.

Lilly exclaimed, “Wow!”

The box was packed with various items, including yellow paper, talismans, ritual blades, a looking glass, and a spiritual compass. Lilly found three ritual blades inside the box.

Anthony said, “I didn’t know what you needed, so I randomly bought a few things for you.”

Charlie would definitely ridicule Andrew if he overheard this.

What do you mean by random things? These were all acquired after thorough searches at auctions. Take the talisman, for example, It was said to have been made by a hermit from special wood pulp, and each step was meticulously done by himself; it was rumored to be extraordinary. That stack of talismans is more valuable than a stack of money.

Lilly happily accepted them; they arrived really timely for her.

“Uncle Anthony is truly deserving of being your uncle,” Pablo remarked.

After Anthony left, other family members began to stop by one at a time, each bringing something different for Lilly.

Zachary continued to play a game while lounging on the couch in Lilly’s room. He finally looked up and saw that they were still giving Lily gifts.

He smirked.

This is what caring looks like! They take different care of Lilly because they think of her as a real family member. They used to speak to me gently, but it always felt so fake. They act as though Lilly is leaving home for a long time, even though she's gone temporarily.

Zachary was annoyed. He turned off his phone and had a gloomy expression on his face.

I'm such an idiot for making a ridiculous excuse to come to Lilly's room.

Zachary was about to leave when he overheard Lilly going through the gifts and murmuring, "The amulet is given by Granny; this is mine, and this one is Zac's. Uncle Anthony gave me three ritual blades..."

Zachary was standing off to the side when Lilly looked up. She gave him the most dazzling blade right away and said, "This one suits you!"

Zachary took a closer look. All of a sudden, he realized that all the gifts they gave to Lilly were in pairs. Liam even prepared two sets of clothes for him, each neatly folded.

Lilly was putting these things in a suitcase. His belongings took up the majority of the space, while Lilly's belongings were tucked away in a tight corner.

Zachary was gobsmacked.

Am I also getting the gifts?

Chapter 203 Lovestruck Polly

Tioga International Airport, South City.

Lilly held up a card with a cartoon flowchart that Blake had hand-drawn for her. It showed a sizable airplane first, then a truck, a conveyor belt for luggage, and so forth.

Zachary was uninterested as he trailed Lilly. He had his phone in his hand and was engaged in intense battling in-game. He roared, "Bring it on, you idiot!"

Due to the headphones he was wearing, he was unable to gauge the volume of his own voice. The passersby turned around and gazed at him in surprise.

Lilly quickly waved her hand and apologized, "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. My brother is too rude."

As she said that, she took the bread out of her bag and stuffed it into Zachary's mouth.

Zachary mumbled, "Hmmm!"

He continued to mumble, but no more offensive words came from his mouth.

Lilly followed the hand-drawn map to collect her luggage and reunite with Polly.

Polly was sent out with pet transportation, where it was in the care of a professional pet carrier.

Polly and another parrot were having a lively conversation, or more accurately, Polly was doing all the talking.

The other bird was a cockatiel parrot. It looked beautiful with its light yellow feathers and smooth crown line. It also had two round red spots on its cheeks just below its eyes, which made its cheeks look pinkish.

"Hello, hi there; did you just wake up?" Polly spread its wings in front of the cockatiel parrot.

That parrot simply ignored Polly.

Lilly said softly, "Polly..."

Polly showed his shining green feathers to the cockatiel parrot again. It said, "Why did you not say anything? Can't you talk? Oh my gosh! I must teach you then!"

Lilly was speechless.

Polly continued, "Hey, listen to me; you must have a crush on me. If you don't...I'll think of something else."

Lilly called out to the parrot again, "Polly..."

Polly shook its feathers, leaned slightly forward, and got closer to the cockatiel parrot's cage. It said, "I don't think you're the right parrot to date, hmm... but you're the right parrot to marry me."

The Cockatiel Parrot finally lost it, and it shouted, "I'm a male! You idiot! Moron!"

Polly was astounded. It turned to face Lilly right away and said, "Let's go. Quick, we have to leave now." Lilly was wordless.

The airport employees who were standing nearby were holding their laughter in until they finally lost control and started laughing out loud.

Lilly was so embarrassed. She quickly grabbed Polly's cage, strided forward, and hurriedly fled from the scene.

Polly once again delivered an extended statement in gibberish once they were outside the airport terminal.

Lilly had a "you won" expression on her face. She asked solemnly, "Polly, did you learn all these from Hannah?"

Polly shook its head and said, "I couldn't tell you!"

The cage was fastened to the suitcase by Lilly. She then followed the road signs outside while pulling the suitcase with one hand while holding the fruit and unfinished cake in the other.

Zachary continued to play games with earphones on and casually followed her from behind.

The kids completely overlooked the few secret agents who pretended to be "ordinary people" in the crowd. All of them wore eyeglasses with tiny cameras on them.

Blake set up four computers in the Crawford Mansion, each receiving real-time surveillance footage from the front line.

Hugh sat with a newspaper in his hands and a somber expression on his face, but he was secretly sneaking glances at Blake's computer. He asked with a long face, "We've agreed that we will let her be independent. Why are we doing all this behind her back?"

Blake said, without even bothering to raise his head, "Dad, I'll believe you if you try a little harder to hide that you're peeking at the computer."

Hugh was taken aback.

Blake continued, "Furthermore, I'm monitoring a spy with my camera. I didn't send someone specifically to film Lilly."

Hugh let out a cold sneer, and he said, "I'll believe you if the focus of your lens shifts just a little bit more to the side."

Hugh

was pushed to the side by Bettany, who yelled, "Move! I want to watch the screen if you don't want

1. to.

Hugh was rendered silent. He lost in the end.

Bettany saw that Lilly was carrying the luggage and walked in front; Zachary trailed empty-handed and preoccupied with video games. She could not bear to watch this scene. She chided angrily, "My goodness! I should've beaten him more severely the other day! How could he allow the younger sibling to carry the luggage?"

Blake narrowed his eyes and stared at Zachary in the footage.

This boy actually has the nerve to boss around my daughter.

Blake took out his phone.

Zachary was ecstatic as he was ready to destroy the rival's crystal. Suddenly, his phone went black. Zachary looked puzzled, and he became furious. He cried out, "Damn it!"

Why on earth does the internet need to go down now? God, are you screwing me?

Lilly hailed a cab. She stood on tiptoe and asked, "Mister, how much would it cost to take me to the Cherry Inn near Middletown University?"

The cabbie had to stretch his neck to see Lilly. When he turned to look, he saw only two children and no adults. He shifted his gaze and replied, "500 bucks."

Lilly was taken aback. She suspected the driver was trying to scam her. The little one fell into a dilemma, and she asked, "Uncle, can we do with fifty bucks? I don't have a lot of money."

The cabbie was astounded.

No, let's put aside whether I'm trying to scam her; this kid is a great negotiator and tried to reduce the price from 500 to fifty bucks in one go.

"Alright, never mind; I'll take you there for 250 bucks. I'm not profiting off of you!" said the cab driver.

Lilly paused briefly. She had a serious expression on her adorable face. She said, "Mister, you can ask for 250 dollars for a ride, but I couldn't pay that, alright? Daddy said that hardworking people should not be deprived of their earnings, so we couldn't take away your money. We won't ride with you; goodbye!"

The more he listened, the more the driver sensed something was not right. He grumbled, "Hey, it's fine if you don't want to ride. Why are you subtly insulting me?"

Lilly shook her head. She looked at him seriously and warned him sternly, "Mister, don't drive at night, alright? If you do it too often, you'll run into ghosts while driving at night."

Lilly told the truth when she said the driver might run into ghosts. However, the driver interpreted it differently.

Is this kid cursing me?

He glared at Lilly and asked, "What are you implying?"

Lilly walked on while dragging her suitcase without saying a word.

Hmph, he tried to con me out of my pocket money, but I wasn't going to let him! He can scam Polly out of its money, but I wouldn't allow him to get a single dime from me.

The driver was upset after being lectured by a child. This was intolerable to him. The driver unlocked the car door, intending to teach Lilly a lesson.

A tall, strong man kicked it shut before the door had even gotten halfway open. He looked ferociously at the driver while casually resting his fist on the window. He terrified the driver. The driver dared not make a sound and retracted his neck in fear.

Lilly kept moving forward with her suitcase.

The cab naturally stopped by the side of the road. Lilly peeked at the cab and asked, "Mister, How much will it cost to take me to the Cherry Inn near Middletown University?"

The driver replied gruffly, "We use the meter, so I'll charge whatever it shows. Typically, it won't cost more

than a hundred dollars."

Lilly's eyes

lit

up

when she heard this.

Yes, that's right, I need to find someone who uses the meter. Daddy said that when I need to take a cab, I should ride a legitimate cab, the one that uses the meter..

When Lilly opened the car door, she noticed the driver had gotten out of the car and helped her put the suitcase in the trunk.

Lilly's eyes curled as she smiled sweetly. She said, "Mister, you're so nice! I just read your aura. It appears that you'll be very fortunate. You would get promoted, gain wealth, and find yourself a wife!"

The driver was overwhelmed with the wishes.

Hehe, Chief MacNeil's daughter is quite a talker!

Chapter 204 The Terrifying Corridor

That tall, strong, black-faced man quickly left the airport after Lilly got into the cab and left.

The illegal cabbie watched as that cab drove away. He cursed, "What an annoying kid! You are the one who will bump into the ghost! So is your whole family!"

He spat out of the window and continued to pick up more passengers.

Lilly unzipped her small shoulder bag inside the cab and pulled out a sizable wallet. There were several gift bags in the wallet.

Zachary had been attempting to reconnect to the internet for some time but was having no luck. He frustratedly tucked his phone away. Then he saw Lilly counting the gift bags. He was somewhat speechless, and he said, "What era is it? Are people still using cash today?"

Lilly was quite shocked, and she asked, "Zac, don't you use money?"

Zachary impatiently replied, "I mean, nowadays everyone pays online; people rarely use cash."

Lilly shook her head and said, "I don't like online payments. I like spending actual money. I can precisely see how much is left by doing this."

I feel heartbroken when my wallet gets lighter, which discourages me from making reckless purchases. I'll be able to save a lot of money and keep getting richer.

Zachary sneered dismissively. He picked up a gift bag and looked at it disdainfully, saying, "You didn't have to keep the gift bag intact, did you?"

No one would put a gift bag in their wallet, even if they paid with cash.

Lilly was staring intently at the gift bag Zachary was holding. She said, "Zac, you don't understand. The money inside the gift bag can multiply. This way, I'll have more money in the long run!"

Zachary scoffed, "Superstitious beliefs!"

Lilly extended her hand and took the gift bag back, saying, "I'm speechless. You just don't get it!"

Zachary was not in the mood to argue with her. He just remained silent. Lilly leaned between the driver's seat and the passenger seat. She did not let her gaze leave the meter. It showed 89, and then it quickly jumped to 96.

The cab driver announced, "We're here."

Lilly wrinkled her face in distress. She was devastated to see the price rise from 89 to 96 dollars, even though the car had only moved a short distance. It cost her an additional seven dollars. She could have walked the short distance.

Lilly looked at the gift bag in her hand. She asked reluctantly, "Mister, can you reverse the car a little bit?" The driver asked in confusion, "Huh? Did I drive too far? I can't reverse or I'll get fined."

This cab did not belong to him. It was fine if his own car got fined, but he did not want it to happen to the actual cab driver.

Lilly shook her head and said, "No, but I don't have enough money; 89 dollars is just nice.

The cab driver replied, "Sweetie, reversing also carries a fee."

"Huh?" Lilly asked in confusion.

Why does it require an additional fee when reversed? This meter isn't fair!

When the cabbie saw how young and adorable she was, his heart melted, and he said, "Okay, let's make it

85 bucks."

Lilly's eyes lit up in delight, and she said, "Thank you, Mister!"

After saying that, she took a 100-dollar bill out of the gift bag.

The cabbie twitched his mouth and asked, "Didn't you say you don't have the money?"

Lilly felt a bit embarrassed. She whispered, "Daddy said, a penny saved is a penny gain."

The driver looked skeptical. *Would someone like Chief MacNeil say such a thing?*

When Blake noticed this, he too twitched the corner of his mouth. He protested in his heart. *I didn't. I never did.*

The cabbie helped Lilly carry the suitcase from the car and helped her with the birdcage. He saw Zachary trailing behind, but the boy constantly wanted to reconnect to a mobile game. He turned his head and stuffed the handle of the suitcase into Zachary's hand. Then he hung the bags and the birdcage on the handle of the suitcase.

Zachary looked up and realized he had a bunch of things in his hand. He was stunned and finally realized that Lilly had carried all the luggage just now.

Lilly reached out and said, "Zac, let me take it. I'm strong!"

Lilly did not think there was anything wrong with it.

Zachary shoved her hand away. He said with a serious look on his face, "Forget it. If you carry it, you will get tired later and start to cry. Are you going to complain to Grandpa and Granny when we go home?"

He said it stubbornly. Then he pulled out the suitcase and quickly walked toward the hotel entrance.

Lilly happily followed behind, chattering away, "This is Cherry Inn! We'll be staying here for the next two days."

Zachary replied, "Oh."

Cherry Inn—why does this name sound familiar?

Lilly added, "Before we came, I asked Daddy to reserve room 34008 here. It's a two-bedroom suite, and it's right next to the room of the girl that committed suicide."

Zachary stopped walking abruptly. He chided, "Damn! Why are we staying here?"

Lilly questioned rhetorically, while sporting a perplexed expression, "Why else would we come here?"

We came here to catch the female spirit! Zachary was haunted by that female spirit after taking a look at the post-mortem photograph. Of course, we have to come here and catch that spirit.

Lilly noticed Zachary's complexion had turned pale and asked, "Zac, are you scared?"

Zachary retorted, "Nonsense!"

Lilly said, "Then, let's go!"

Zachary did not say anything. When he looked up, he could make out the two words "Cherry Inn" written on the top floor of two tall buildings that were facing one another.

Lilly tiptoed and registered at the front desk. After she was done, she pulled Zachary into the elevator and said, "Let's go!"

The elevator went straight up, all the way to the 34th floor. The building had multiple floors, and the rooms were densely packed. The lengthy corridor appeared to go on forever.

Zachary only gave the hallway a quick glance, but for some reason, he felt a chill go through him.

Lilly took a look and analyzed, "There's something off with the design, and it forms into an aura. Since the hallway is so long, a lot of ghosts are likely to congregate in this building."

Zachary was stunned.

You did a good job of explaining it, but please don't do it again.

This

building was not exactly a luxury hotel, and the people who lived on this floor were not made tourists. Instead, it was a chaotic residence for short- and long-term rentals.

up

of

There was no carpet in the hallway. When the children dragged the suitcase, the sound of rolling wheels filled the entire hallway. As they advanced, the sound gradually spread to other floors.

One of the doors would occasionally open from both sides of the corridor. The tenant could be seen relaxing in the cool breeze while sitting in the doorway. They would look blankly at the kids when they saw them.

Zachary felt that this corridor was incredibly long, but they finally made it to suite 34008. Lilly used the room key to unlock the lock; they heard a beeping sound, and the door was opened.

When Lilly pushed the door open, a gust of cool wind blew in. Zachary's scalp pricked when he heard a faint creaking noise coming from the neighboring room.

To make matters worse, Polly made a sound and exclaimed, "Oh, it's so refreshing!"

Zachary felt his heart almost jump out of his throat. He exclaimed, "Quick, we have to go inside!"

He wanted to enter the room immediately, but the door slammed shut with a bang because the wind was too strong. Lilly had entered the room, but Zachary was locked outside.

The whistling sound of the wind could be heard in the hallway. Zachary had a feeling that even though the door to the neighboring room was securely closed, it would suddenly open in the next second. This feeling struck him as something creepier when he failed to enter the room.

Zachary frantically banged on the door. He yelled, "Lilly! Open the door!"

The tenant, who was enjoying the cool breeze in the distance, peered out. Zachary's fear grew as a result of the wind's whistling sound.

He heard a clicking sound coming from the door. Zachary was overjoyed and tried to enter the room. When he grabbed the door handle and pushed it, he realized that the door did not open.

In other words, the clicking sound did not come from their room but from the neighboring room.

Chapter 205 Two People On The Air Conditioner

Zachary instinctively turned his head and stared at the door of the neighboring room. It took him an unusually long time to react. He watched as the door slowly swung back and creaked open. There was a strong wind; the wind had blown open the door to their room with a loud bang.

It appeared as though someone was slowly pulling open the door of the neighboring room. The door opened about one-third of the way and stopped.

Zachary froze. The door remained motionless, too. He had the impression that he was being observed by an invisible figure standing by the door, leaning against it, and watching him.

Zachary felt the tingling in his scalp. Once more, he attempted to force the door open. He yelled, "Lilly, open the door!"

Damn! Sh*t! Things are getting out of control!

The door of the neighboring room remained still. Zachary thought he heard laughter, not weeping, coming from somewhere close by when the wind whistled. There was a saying that goes, “The sinister laughter of spirits is worse than crying”.

Zachary pushed harder. He started to wonder. Is Lilly doing this to me on purpose?

Just then, the door finally opened after great effort. Lilly was panting heavily, and she said helplessly, “Zac, the door opens outward!”

Lilly was unable to open the door because of how hard he pushed it. Lilly said, “Zac, you pushed the door too hard.”

Zachary was not bothered by that. He entered the room in a flash. Maybe one would unleash his hidden potential when he was in a state of extreme fear. Zachary was not aware of the amount of force he used to push the door.

His tense face finally relaxed as soon as he entered the room. He muttered in confusion, “What the heck is the design of this hotel? “Do the doors actually open outward?”

The corridor was very narrow. There would be no way for anyone to pass through if everyone left their doors open.

Lilly acknowledged with a nod, “Yeah, the design is very impractical.”

The ominous aura formed by the long and narrow corridors, while the doors facing each other formed an opposition. The initial layout of this building gave the impression that it was not meant for human beings.

Zachary took a quick look around.

The interior decoration seemed fine at first glance. A small living room with a cream-colored couch and white-painted walls. The curtains were double-layered. The main curtain had been pulled aside, leaving only a layer of white sheer fabric that swayed gently in the wind. A cloud-shaped armchair stood next to the round coffee table, enhancing the overall clean and inviting design.

Zachary felt uncomfortable in every way. When he casually sat on the sofa, his body immediately sank into it. He complained, “This furniture looks nice, but the quality is terrible.”

A good sofa should be resilient, soft without being saggy, and made of a comfortable fabric. The moment he sat down on this sofa, it began to sink, and the fabric had an uncomfortable, difficult-to-describe feeling.

When Zachary examined the round coffee table closely, he even noticed that the paint had been applied haphazardly.

This room was a classic example of misleading photography—it looks nice in pictures, but it’s awful to live in.

Lilly took things out of the luggage. She pulled out a pair of adorable yellow duck slippers and put them on. She then took out Zachary's slippers, two sets of blankets and sheets for the beds, two sets of clothing, a pack of equipment, towels, toothbrushes, and other daily necessities. Additionally, she brought a ton of snacks.

Zachary was dumbfounded. How did she manage to fit so many things into such a small suitcase?

With her slippers on, Lilly ran around, placing things where they belonged. She even took the time to comfort her brother. She said, "Zac, hang in there! If you think we're moving too slowly, we can check out the room next to us later."

Zachary was stunned.

Take a look at the neighboring room?

Zachary was perplexed and asked, "Why?"

Is it a must for us to catch the female spirit just because it's there? Why can't we simply cast several exorcism spells from the comfort of our homes? Why should we put ourselves through the trouble of trying to capture ghosts?

Lilly explained, "If we don't catch her, she'll keep haunting you. You'll keep having nightmares, slowly becoming weaker, and maybe even getting sick. You'll develop vitiligo, toenail fungus, kidney deficiencies, epilepsy, mental disorders, and mental confusion."

She pulled out her fingers and recounted all the possibilities in a jumbled manner.

Zachary was losing it. He yelled, "Stop it!"

What a mess!

"According to the master's advice, it means you can run but you can never hide. If we did that, we'd be applying a bandage rather than solving the root cause," Lilly explained.

Zachary asked again, "So what? Is it necessary for us to travel all this way to catch her? Why can't we simply summon her from Clodston and catch her there?"

Lilly responded, "Why didn't I think of that?"

Zachary said, "Let's go home now."

Lilly refused and shook her head, saying, "No, we can't."

Zachary covered his face and pulled his hair back. He asked in frustration, "Why not?"

Lilly replied, "The booking fee for the hotel is not refundable. It will burn if we leave."

Zachary was rendered wordless. Do you think I care about that tiny amount of money?

"I'll give you the money!" Zachary's stubbornness got the better of him.

Lilly still shook her head and insisted, "The money you give is yours. The money from Daddy belonged to him. It will be a waste of Daddy's money if I take your money and don't stay at the hotel he booked."

Sweet Pea's reasoning was clear at times like this. Besides that, when she consulted Mr. Tortoise, the hexagram said they must make this trip, despite her being unaware of the reason.

Zachary thought he was going to vomit blood. The beloved little princess of his family actually haggles with him over a two-night hotel bill.

Forget it; I'll let it go.

When he remembered that their stay had cost 1,000 dollars for two nights. For that kind of money, Zachary had to spend the entire day working as a sparring partner. From a young age, he had to work to support himself; he was aware that money does not come easily.

It appeared that he and Lilly had come to an understanding after their argument over the 1,000 dollars. Well, since they were already here...

Zachary walked over with an irritated expression after noticing Lilly was bustling around. He grabbed her collar and said, "Move aside; I'll tidy up the room. You've made a mess."

Lilly protested, "It's not messy!"

Zachary snorted, "I don't like other people touching my stuff."

He removed his own belongings and "accidentally" arranged Lilly's as well.

Lilly ran off to play with Polly because she had nothing else to do. Lilly questioned as she unlocked the birdcage, "Zac, shall we go to the neighboring room tonight?"

Zachary asked with a long face, "Can't we do it in broad daylight by tomorrow?"

Lilly shook her head and said, "Ghosts only come out at night!"

Zachary was flabbergasted.

Fine. Let's get it over with!

Polly walked out of the cage and walked in a zigzag pattern. It wandered about everywhere.

Polly said the same thing again, with a few additions this time, "Oh, this place is nice and cool. There are people here, and there are people underneath the bed. Oh my! The air conditioner has two people on it."

When Zachary heard this, he was about to make the bed, and his head started to feel numb once more. Under Lilly's perplexed gaze, he took a step back and then quickly hid his response. He walked toward the bathroom with his toiletries.

Polly exclaimed, "Oh, there's a woman in the bathroom!"

Zachary could not take it anymore; he shouted, "Shut up!"

Lilly looked at Polly in confusion and asked the parrot, "Where are the people on the air conditioner?"

Polly replied, "It's those shameless people in their underwear!"

Zachary was speechless. Those two were the air conditioner's logos.

Lilly said again, "I didn't see anyone under the bed."

Polly flew down, reached under the bed, and pulled out a business card. Something about foot massage and the all-night foot massage service was mentioned on the card. Additionally, it was printed with a picture of a sexy woman.

"Caw caw, there are people! There are people!"

Zachary was flabbergasted.

That's a shameless business card! Enough is enough.

He headed for the bathroom with his towel and toothbrush in his hand. He glanced at the promotional pamphlet that was posted on the bathroom door. A friendly reminder about fire safety and electrical safety was provided by a smiling woman who was printed on the brochure.

When the parrot mentions there's a woman in the bathroom, does it refer to this woman?

Zachary, however, failed to notice Lilly's sudden eye blink. She stared intently toward the bathroom and said, "Huh? Polly is right, there is a woman here."

Chapter 206 Zachary Is Seeing Ghosts

Zachary was about to put the towels in the bathroom. He heard Lilly's words and stopped dead in his tracks. He turned around and reentered the room.

Lilly asked curiously, "Zac, aren't you going to put the towels away?"

Zachary remained unfazed and said, "I thought about it and decided to make the bed first!"

Lilly replied, "Oh..."

She looked at the female spirit, who was wearing pajamas and had a towel draped over her shoulder. The spirit leisurely walked into the room and sat down by the bed.

The spirit said, "Oh, we have new tenants again? Why have the new tenants turned out to be two kids?"

Lilly looked toward the direction of the bed and politely responded, "Sorry for the disturbance! We'll be here for two days. We'll be heading out soon!"

When Zachary got to the bed, he suddenly went completely still. He turned toward the bathroom and said, "I think I should put the towels down first."

Polly tilted its head and asked in puzzlement, "Caw caw, why did you come back?"

Zachary ignored Polly.

"I know you are afraid of ghosts," Polly said.

Zachary sneered and said, "Ghosts don't exist in this world."

Those nightmares terrified him. Even though he came here with Lilly, he still held the attitude that it's preferable to believe something is real or true than to believe it is nonexistent or false. In essence, he still believes that ghosts do not exist in this world.

Zachary was contemplating this when a man came out of the bathroom.

Zachary screamed inwardly. Urghh! Urgh, is this a dream? Am I hallucinating?

Josh would unquestionably jump three feet high, start to scream, run, and hide behind Lilly if he had seen the middle-aged man at this point.

On the contrary, Zachary was frozen in place like a statue. He had a blank look on his face. He spotted a middle-aged woman sitting by the bed in addition to this man.

Where did these two come from when there was nobody else in the room just now? If they were ghosts, then how could I see them?

Zachary's reflexes took forever to react.

That middle-aged man cast an unhappy glance Zachary's way and grumbled, "New tenants again? Seriously, the constant coming and going drives me crazy. These people don't pay and make a mess!"

Lilly hurriedly ran to the luggage and took out the gear that Uncle Anthony had prepared for them. She generously pulled out a stack of ritual papers and said, "Sorry for the interruption! We will pay!"

She painted a circle on the ground while holding the ritual papers in her other hand. She left a gap in the circle's northwest corner, lit the ritual papers, and chanted some words.

Zachary finally snapped out of it when he saw Lilly burn the ritual papers. He shuddered. He had goosebumps all over his body. He felt scared and asked, "What are you doing?"

Lilly explained, "I'm burning ritual papers for Uncle and Auntie. We'll be renting their place to stay for temporary."

Zachary walked over unnaturally to Lilly, sitting next to her like a cyborg, his back stiffening as he did so. Zachary quickly lowered his head and turned to look at Lilly when he noticed that both ghosts were staring at him.

He fumbled to say something, "Why do you need to draw circles?"

Lilly explained, "We have to draw circles so that they can get the offering. Otherwise, it will be blown away by the wind!"

Zachary remained silent.

Lilly urged, "Zac, keep in mind that you must draw circles before burning the ritual papers intended for someone. You must jot down the person's name and birth chart if they are not around. They won't get it otherwise."

He had witnessed others doing it without drawing anything. Zachary pondered, "What about those people burning the ritual paper at the crossroads on July 14th? They don't draw any circles."

Lilly said, "That is why the majority of the offerings they burn never make it to their loved ones. When they burn the ritual papers, there are many wandering spirits around; the offering could have reached them."

“Do you get it now?” Lilly asked worriedly in the end.

Zachary remained silent. No, I mean Why am I learning all this?

Lilly pulled out a ritual blade and brushed off the ashes as the last bit of the ritual papers was consumed by the flames. She said, “Alright, Auntie and Uncle, this is your rent!”

Mrs. Ghost’s face lit up with joy.

Someone sensible has finally arrived after all these years. There was no one to offer sacrifice for wandering spirits like them. They had to struggle to get the ritual papers by picking them up at various crossroads on July 14th. Few people still burn ritual papers at the crossroads in today’s society.

Mrs. Ghost and Mr. Ghost happily picked up the ritual papers as they entered the circle through a hole in the northwest.

Mrs. Ghost said with a smile, “Oh my, you’re such a sensible girl! Come, you can have this suite. We’re going to move in with the neighbors next door for two days!”

Mr. Ghost’s mood had greatly improved. He asked cheerfully, “Is there anything we can do to help you? Just let us know!”

Zachary was astonished. Before him, the door to a new world had opened. He appeared utterly perplexed.

Lilly pondered for a moment and asked, “Who lives next door now?”

The couple who had received the ritual papers cooperatively responded, “Next door? Do you mean the current tenant or the first dark spirit who lived there?”

Lilly asked incredulously, “The first dark spirit?”

It turned out that the building was not designed to house living human beings.

Mr. Ghost explained, “This land used to be unmarked graves. Later, wasn’t it being developed?”

Lilly nodded in response.

Mrs. Ghost continued, “Before they laid the foundation, they hired a practitioner. It was unclear how many people had been buried in this mass grave for hundreds of years. Where else could the thousands of dark spirits go after they leave here? They can’t leave.

“The practitioner wanted to make money and couldn’t fit all of us in, so he came up with an idea and told the building’s owner. They talked about balancing the energy. They would assign a room to each of the shadow ghosts who had been buried here originally after the building was completed.

“The doors would be open to the outside, and the corridor would be filled with a bad aura. The design of the rooms would reflect those of the underworld. This means that most of the rooms are quite small.”

Lilly was bewildered, and she asked, “Wouldn’t this design have an impact on living people? Would the owner agree to house so many ghosts?”

Mrs. Ghost explained, "It's fine, as long as the living people don't stay here for too long. This building has a constant flow of people, so short stays wouldn't have an impact on them. Wandering spirits like us can't exist forever. We slowly fade away over time. Why would the owner object when he doesn't reside here?"

"Well, some recent graduates dislike the environment of an urban village but cannot afford the rent in a residential area. They consequently decided to stay here for a while. Oh, one of them is the girl who lives next door."

When she heard this, Lilly perked up her ears and put her chin on her hands while listening to the story with a serious expression.

Mrs. Ghost thought Lilly was so cute. She could not help but speak slower. She said, "That girl has lived here for three years. Her mental health has suffered as a result of her extended stay here."

Lilly nodded, and she said, "Before I came here, my dad helped me investigate this place. People have jumped off the roof of Cherry Inn numerous times."

In other words, the female spirit that haunted Zachary was not the first to commit suicide.

Mrs. Ghost nodded and said, "Yes, if you stay here for a long time, those who are weak may become confused, depressed, and melancholic."

There are bad people in society, and the same goes for the spirit realm. Many opportunities targeted these people and sought to claim their lives.

"The spirit of the deceased would become trapped here and serve the first dark spirits if the family of the deceased tenant were unaware of the proper ritual and failed to properly guide the soul after they passed away."

The situation finally became clear to Lilly. She asked, "So the ones living next door are the first dark spirits and the troubled spirit of the girl who jumped from the building?"

Mr. and Mrs. Ghost were surprised. How did she know?

Mrs. Ghost revealed, "That girl who lives next door doesn't go out very often. She likes to relax at home and play games after work. I overheard that she often interacts with a game coaching streamer."

Zachary was astonished.

Motherf*cker! A game coach... Could it be me?

Chapter 207 Game Coaching Client

Zachary's body broke out in a cold sweat for no reason.

Lilly asked, "Game coaching? My brother is one!"

Zachary thought in his heart. *Don't* cue me. Thank you.

Mrs. Ghost said as she cast a glance Zachary's way, "I see... That girl doesn't have many friends. She shares an apartment with another girl, and the two girls don't get along well. Sometimes the other girl invites her boyfriend to spend the night. The two often have conflicts."

Zachary was struck dumb.

This story sounded familiar. I recall getting a booking in the middle of the night a while ago. My client often mentioned that her roommate brought her boyfriend to stay overnight.

"What happened after that?" Zachary couldn't help but ask.

Mrs. Ghost said, "That's all. She died."

Zachary ceased speaking once more. He grumbled in his heart. *I just started to feel intrigue and want to hear the rest, but there isn't more to the story?*

Mrs. Ghost continued, "The girl caused a significant disturbance in the room when she jumped off the building. Her roommate was so terrified that she dared not return. The girl allegedly fell in love with a boy she played games with. Before she jumped, she wore a wedding gown and wrote the boy's name, but they never actually met. I don't know what happened after that."

After giving it some thought, Mrs. Ghost continued, "Oh yes, the name of that boy is CrowZee. I think I saw it written in a red booklet."

Zachary was taken aback.

Damn, this can't possibly be a coincidence, can it? It's such a big world; why did it have to be me?

Zachary was immobile and rooted to the spot.

Lilly thanked Mr. and

Mrs. Ghost and bid them farewell. After she watched them drift away, she finally said, "Okay, Zac, shall we go next door and take a look?"

Just now, Mrs. Ghost informed them that no one lived next door.

In fear, Zachary said, "Perhaps we shouldn't..."

Lilly asked curiously, "Zac, you've been acting strangely since we entered this room. What's going on?"

Zachary was a little evasive, but he finally confessed, "Just now, when I was outside, the door next door opened."

Lilly widened her eyes and asked, "Why didn't you say so earlier?"

Zachary turned his head away, not saying anything.

What is there to say? Am I going to tell her and let her laugh at my cowardice? Everything has changed now. I had now actually witnessed a ghost.

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Lilly looked at him puzzledly and said, "Zac, what's wrong? You're acting even stranger now."

She fixed her gaze on Zachary, and she could tell Zachary was keeping something from her.

Zachary was tongue-tied for a moment.

What *should I say*, exactly? *I had turned into a game-coaching streamer to make money.*

At first, when *people* found out that *I was a child*, they told me to get lost and go home to *my mother*.

I eventually gave up on *joining clubs because I'm a kid and started working as a freelance streaming gaming coach.*

That I pretended to be a grownup? The female spirit next door was my game sparring client?

"Nothing," Zachary pursed his lips and remained silent.

Lilly secretly read Zachary's aura. She sported a stern expression and said, "I just read your aura, and you're in danger. Is your life or your reputation more important to you, Zac?"

Zachary was at a loss for words. He stared at Lilly, suspecting that she was doing this on purpose.

He pursed his lips and finally said, "I'm CrowZee."

It was Lilly's turn to widen her mouth in shock at this point. She asked, "You are Zachary Crawford; how could you be CrowZee?"

Zachary was irritated. He pulled out a piece of paper and wrote his name. He separated the letters in his name so they resembled CrowZee to some extent.

With a sympathetic expression on her face, Lilly remarked, "No wonder the suicidal spirit is haunting you."

Zachary had a hard time accepting this. He protested, "Hey! I'm just a kid!"

I only played games to make a little money to support myself. Is it necessary for this to happen to me? I think I have trauma from playing games now.

Lilly shook her head and said, "The suicidal spirit doesn't care about this. It is your fault that you lied to her."

Zachary cursed, "Dang it!"

He began to seriously consider the possibility that he may have made a mistake for the first time.

"It's okay; the suicidal spirit didn't write your real name on the red booklet, and it doesn't know your birth chart," Lilly reassured him.

The best it could do was haunt him and give him nightmares. If Zac's name had been written, he would not be able to sit here comfortably now.

"What should I do?" Zachary could not help but start grabbing his hair.

Before this, he never imagined that this would happen to him. He even questioned whether ghosts exist.

Lilly just looked at him and said earnestly, "Don't be afraid. I'm with you."

Game Coaching Client

Zachary was startled. Although the girl was small—her head barely reached his shoulders—the seriousness in her eyes somehow comforted him. Zachary fell silent and said nothing more.

At ten o'clock in the night, the whole Cherry Inn became quiet. It was absolutely quiet, which made the place seem unreal.

A cylinder light was installed every six feet along the long corridor. Since it was embedded in the ceiling and was not very bright, the corridor appeared somewhat hazy and dim. It even gave the illusion of walking on the road to the underworld.

Lilly wore a small yellow bag on her back that contained yellow papers, ritual papers, and obol coin strings, in addition to a ritual blade.

Zachary was right behind her. He looked tense and carried a ritual blade to ward off evil spirits.

His pupils slightly shrank as he focused on the tightly shut door next door.

Mrs. Ghost clearly said that there was no one next door. Why is this door locked?

Zachary did not hear a bang from the wind blowing through the door.

"Lilly, is this okay?" Zachary asked as he looked at the long corridor. His heart almost jumped off his throat.

Lilly gave him an OK gesture and said, "It's okay."

As soon as her words fell, the door of the room next door creaked and slowly opened.

Chapter 208 Hiding Under the Bed

The next room's door slowly opened. When Zachary looked at that door, he was petrified on the spot.

Lilly gave him a quick glance. All of a sudden, she found this to be very fascinating.

Josh got goosebumps and reacted quickly when he was scared. He would scream and run away. Zac, on the other hand, simply stood still when he came across anything eerie, as if he had turned into a statue.

Lilly covered her mouth and laughed at him. In jest, she said, "Zac, if ghosts could eat people, you'd definitely be the first one eaten."

Zachary was not bothered to answer. Moments later, Lilly leaped in front of Zachary and yelled, "Roar!"

She bit him in the arm after that. Zachary was horrified and had goosebumps all over. He hissed, "What are you doing!"

Zachary was speechless, as Lilly's saliva was all over his arm.

Lilly turned to look at the corridor crowded with shadow ghosts. They were startled by her roar, and all of them fled to safety. She chuckled and said, "Don't be afraid, Zac. My saliva can ward off evil spirits!"

"Get lost!" Zachary rolled his eyes.

Lilly immediately responded, "Okay! I'm coming! Suicidal spirit!"

She cheerfully charged into the room with her ritual blade in hand.

Zachary was astonished. *Did she just run into the room? What an unreliable sister!*

Zachary sulked. He looked at the door and decided not to enter. *I'm not entering that place. I would never go there.*

Zachary was thinking about this when he heard an eerie voice that said, "You're here."

Zachary's pupils contracted. His reflexes finally caught up. Finally, his reflexes caught up. He immediately took off after screaming, "Lilly!"

He dashed into the neighboring room.

The apartment next door had two bedrooms and one living room. The unit's layout was compact. There was a typical gray cotton-linen sofa in it, facing the kitchen and bathroom. There was no TV in the living room.

There were two rooms next to the living room, one with the door shut tightly and the other with the door wide open and facing the entrance. Right upon entering, one could see the room's red-themed decorations.

The bed linens, quilt, and pillows were all red. There was a "Just Married" sticker on the dressing table's mirror. Nearly extinguished scented candles were positioned next to the mirror. At the foot of *the* bed was a pair of red high heels,

Zachary thought he could still hear the eerie voice when the wind blew. He feared turning around as goosebumps began to appear all over his body and his scalp began to tingle.

Lilly where are you! Zachary called out quietly.

Hiding Under the Bed

Behind him, a small head appeared out of nowhere. Lilly said, "I'm here!"

Zachary was taken aback. He froze and asked angrily, "Why did you appear out of nowhere and not make any noise?"

Lilly reacted as if she had done something wrong. She stated matter-of-factly, "When I tapped on your shoulder the last time, you were also angry with me."

When I abruptly called him, he was startled. He was horrified when I abruptly touched his shoulder. He was still mad at me when I popped my head up. It's so difficult to get along with him, eh?

“Where did you go?” he questioned.

Lilly pointed at the kitchen and explained, “I went to the kitchen and found two red eggs.”

She spread her hands open, revealing a red egg in each. The red egg was a necessity at rural wedding banquets.

Zachary immediately pushed her hands away and warned her, “Keep them away!”

Lilly looked around and placed the eggs on the coffee table.

Swoosh... Suddenly, a red shadow wandered past the door.

Zachary was momentarily stunned. He asked, “Lilly, did you...did you just see that?”

“Yes, I saw the bride in the wedding gown,” Lilly acknowledged with a nod.

She carefully looked around. Mrs. Ghost had mentioned earlier that this room was home to the first dark spirits, but she did not see them when she entered. It was as if both spirits had gone out to visit their friends.

Zachary grew anxious because they were unable to see any of the ghosts. He said, “Let’s head back to our room. We can come back tomorrow at noon.”

The sound of footsteps resonating down the hallway cut him off before he could finish. It was getting closer and closer to the apartment. Clearly, it was heading their way.

Lilly grabbed Zachary’s hand and ran into the house, saying, “Quick, hide!”

Zachary exclaimed, “What in the world?”

He watched as Lilly yanked him into the room full of wedding decorations. Every coin Zachary’s body protested against this. He suggested, “Let’s hide in another room.”

Lilly whispered, “There’s no time!”

Zachary was panicked. Lilly pulled him under the bed and pasted a talisman in front of them.

Under the bed, Zachary was astounded to discover where they were. Why must we seek refuge *under* the bed of a female spirit’s *bed* out of *all* possible hiding *places*?

Zachary’s hair stood on end. He was about to crawl out when a pair of red shoes suddenly appeared in front of him. The shoes approached him closer and closer. A raspy voice that resembled Donald Duck was heard, “Hey, where are you hiding?”

Hiding Under the Bed

Zachary widened his eyes! It was eerie because the person wearing the red shoes stood on tiptoe and swung back and forth in front of him.

The owner of these shoes was tiptoeing, when one would normally walk with their soles flat on the ground.

The shoes abruptly came to a halt in front of Zachary. He noticed the hair hanging down as if someone were leaning over the edge of the bed to look down below.

Zachary froze on the spot and was unable to breathe. More hairs were dangling on the ground. He was aware that the head was getting closer and closer to him.

Zachary stiffly turned his eyes and looked at Lilly for help.

Much to his surprise, Lilly was counting money! She was, in fact, counting money, but it was money in the form of ritual papers.

Zachary was almost in tears.

She's still counting money while we're stuck in such a dire situation. Just burn the entire stack of ritual papers; what is there to count?

The bed creaked. The ground was covered in a mound of hair that was hanging down. The top of the head of that ghost was visible to him.

Zachary stopped breathing.

How did *this* head hang down? *Normally, I should be able to see half an ear or half a face, not the top of the head.*

Zachary was terrified. He was screaming inside. *Lilly, save me! Save me!*

It seemed as though Lilly had heard his mute scream. She lifted her head and said, "Don't worry, he can't see us."

Zachary attempted to quickly cover Lilly's mouth out of fear. Lilly said again, "Don't worry, he can't hear us either!"

Zachary was stunned.

Bullshit! I don't trust you! Didn't you notice the ghost by the bed, hesitate for a moment, then continue to lean over?

The ghost abruptly stood up straight and sat on the edge of the bed, just as Zachary believed they were about to be seen by it.

Just as Zachary breathed a sigh of relief. He heard the sound of frantic footsteps coming from outside the door. This time, the ghost was wearing pink slippers. She spoke in fear as she entered the room, saying, "I'm sorry, I got delayed on the way..."

The ghost sitting on the bed had a hoarse and unpleasant voice. He scolded the other person menacingly, "I sent you to buy something; why did you dawdle for so long? You were gone half the night. Tell me, did you take my money and go somewhere else to have fun?"

The girl in the pink slippers almost burst into tears, and she said, "I didn't..."

She was met with a hard slap. The girl in the pink slippers was sent flying backward. She rolled to the edge of the bed and fell right in front of Zachary..

Zachary was shocked.

Chapter 209 Track Down The Slick Ghost

Zachary's face was almost in contact with that of the female spirit. He was frozen in place, motionless as a stone.

That female spirit was wearing a white wedding gown. He recognized her face from the group chat photo. She was that suicidal spirit—Snowie!

Strangely, Snowie was not sporting a pair of bright red high heels but rather a pair of pink slippers.

Luckily, Snowie did not see Zachary. She got up from the ground with a fearful expression, only to have the ghost with the red shoes stomp on her.

He commanded, "I'm starving. Hurry up and cook for me. I need to take a bath; fill up the water in the tub for me now!"

Snowie quickly got up. When the ghost struck her again, she was about to head to the kitchen. He roared, "Didn't I tell you to fill up the water in the tub?"

She tried to go to the bathroom, but the ghost hit her again. It yelled, "Didn't you hear me telling you to cook?"

Zachary came to his senses and frowned. *Isn't this ghost deliberately picking on her? No, I mean bullying a ghost?*

Snowie screamed agonizingly. She suddenly saw two red eggs on the coffee table. She quickly crawled over and offered the eggs to the ghost, which was beating her. The ghost gave her one last verbal reprimand before he stopped.

Zachary turned his head and asked, "Lilly, how did she get the eggs? Aren't they ghosts?"

Zachary recalled that Lilly had placed the two red eggs upright on the table. It was only then that he realized how the eggs could stand up without being cracked at the bottom.

Sure enough, he heard Lilly reply, "I had already prepared for this. Stay put and don't move, Zac."

She crawled out after saying that.

Zachary was shocked and exclaimed, "Lilly!"

Lilly had already crawled out into the open. It was quiet outside. That fierce ghost was sitting on the sofa, making a noise as it munched the eggs.

The female spirit in pink slippers was sobbing while she cooked something with the pot. There was the sound of pots and pans clanging, but there was no flame. It was somewhat eerie.

Zachary grew anxious once more without Lilly by his side. His sister had always annoyed him, but when Lilly left his side, he panicked and wished he could stay by her side.

Likewise, Zachary had the urge to crawl out. He accidentally pressed the talisman that Lilly had placed in front of him. He quickly lifted his hand, but he tore the talisman in the process.

Oh my god! Zachary was petrified on the spot, not daring to move.

The ghost stopped munching on the eggs at this precise moment. The red shoes shifted into motion before coming to a stop once more in front of Zachary,

Track Down The Slick Ghost

It reminded Zachary of scenes from horror movies. He quickly held his breath, and his face turned red from the effort, but he kept pinching his nose. The red shoes slowly approached him, as expected.

Zachary finally let go of his grip and took a deep breath when he saw the shoes left. Suddenly, he heard a harsh and piercing voice saying, "Hehe! Gotcha!"

Zachary's back went numb. A fifty-something man was squatting next to him when he stiffly turned around.

His skin was brown, as if he had spent a long time under the ground, and he had sunken eyes. He had a long braid, and half of his head was bald. His attire belonged to the Heviel Dynasty.

The ghost smiled ominously and flashed two golden teeth when he saw Zachary.

Zachary was dumbstruck.

Lilly, meanwhile, had put the charm on her forehead and was moving quickly around the room.

"Containment spirit net, containment spirit net," she muttered as she ran back and forth.

She was wearing a red bracelet, and thread after thread from it was used to haphazardly seal the room. Her master used to tell her that if she worked hard enough, she could defeat the slick ghost.

Now, the slick ghost was in this room. She had located it despite how well it was hidden.

First, Mrs. Ghost said the shadow ghost that resided here was an ordinary ghost. An ordinary ghost would not put on women's red high heels. However, the suicidal spirit was walking around in high heels.

Secondly, the suicide spirit died in a wedding gown, and after she carried out a ritual, she was manipulated by another ghost when she should have become a resentful spirit. A resentful spirit could only be suppressed by a fierce or malicious spirit.

However, Mrs. Ghost said that the ghost living in this room was a common, woeful ghost. How could a common, woeful ghost enslave a suicidal spirit?

So if the slick ghost = x, the original inhabitant, the shadow ghost uncle = y, and the suicidal ghost turned resentful spirit = z, then x was hiding inside y and passing as y. Which meant x = y!

Lilly thought joyfully, "I can do math now! I've learned Josh's skill."

I'm doing so *well* now!

Lilly was happy about this. She had just finished using the containment spirit net to seal the space when she heard Zachary's miserable scream.

"Urghhhhh! Ghost!"

As soon as his words fell, Lilly saw Zachary abruptly stand up and overturn the bed. Although the bed in the rental house was not of great quality, it was impressive that Zachary could flip it over.

Lilly was astonished. She watched as Zachary screamed and ran to her side. She could not help but look at Zachary's head and ask, "Zac, is there a bump on your head?"

Only then did Zachary realize that his head was buzzing. He was unable to recall how he managed to crawl out from under the bed earlier because he was so terrified.

Track Down The Slick Ghost

The siblings looked at the bed. The bed board was sparsely structured, with very thin slats, and one of them was now broken. It was obviously broken by Zachary's head. Additionally, the mattress was thin, making it simple for Zachary to topple it.

"Ouch!" Zachary touched his bump and hissed in pain.

Due to the noise, the female spirit emerged from the kitchen. The other ghost that lay under the bed also floated up and stared at Zachary. He questioned in a gravelly voice, "Who are you?"

There was a talisman on Lilly's forehead, which made her invisible in their eyes.

Zachary could not help himself but grab Lilly's arm. He pleaded in a trembling voice, "Quick, give me one too."

Lilly tore the talisman off her forehead and stuck it on Zachary's forehead. She said, "Zac, go and hide to the side."

She had a red bracelet in her hand, and she was afraid to engage in a fight. However, Zachary was not okay; he did not have any gear with him. If he was caught by the ghost, it would be troublesome for him.

The slick ghost seemed to have realized this too. The moment Lilly tore off the talisman and was about to stick it on Zachary, it pounced!

Zachary cursed, "Holy shit!"

Why do *they* keep picking on *me*?

That ghost let out a sharp scream. His nails grew longer, and he reached out to grab Zachary. Lilly stood in front of Zachary without hesitation.

The ghost's eyes briefly flashed with a hint of ferocity.

The great judge wouldn't have expected me to be here, so he must have gone looking for me! A little kid like her—I could swallow her in one bite!

“Lilly...” Zachary called out quietly, and his pupils narrowed as he did so.

A red light struck that ghost fiercely in the next instant, sending him flying backward.

Zachary was surprised.

This annoying little sister of mine is so powerful?

Chapter 210 Lilly's Inner Demons

That energy pushed that ghost backward. The slick ghost stared at Lilly in astonishment. He thought to himself. *I must have been careless just now; it doesn't count.*

A sense of graveness emerged in his eyes. A strong aura of vanity emanated from his body. He roared and pounced toward Lilly. He was dead serious at this point.

If I could not devour this child, I would...

A red light flashed once more as he was contemplating this. The ghost was violently thrown backward by the second strike, crashing into the web that Lilly had just created.

Lilly remained in the same spot. She had not even moved a finger!

The ghost gazed at her in horror, and he growled, “You...!”

This kid is a good fighter. I'm sure that she's an expert at hiding her true strength.

Lilly blinked her eyes and asked, “Another round?”

The ghost was speechless.

Shameless! How dare you act innocent?

Lilly warned, “If you don't attack me, I will attack you!”

The slick ghost had many identities because it was concealed inside this man. Under layer after layer of defense, it concealed his true self.

Although Lilly had no idea how he did it, the slick ghost showed his vulnerability. She planned to remove the layers of defense that this slick ghost had built up.

Lilly rushed forward menacingly. She grabbed the ghost's foot and swung it when he was caught off guard. She swung him around like a rag doll, slamming the ghost onto the ground. Lilly yelled, “Take this! Take more of this!”

The ghost launched a furious counterattack, but

Lilly released her hold right away. The red bracelet thus released another strike at the ghost.

Lilly took advantage of the ghost's confusion. Once more, she charged at him, grabbed him, and violently beat him.

Pablo was hidden in the shadows. When he saw this scene, he was in a state of shock. His young disciple had mastered the techniques. She had not only mastered it but also had incredibly good luck in that the slick ghost did not launch a counterattack against her.

A pfft sound was heard abruptly. A shadow sprinted out as the ghost shed his skin. Lilly was grabbing a layer of "human skin" in her hand. It belonged to Shadow Ghost, who had previously lived in this apartment,

That middle-aged ghost spoke in a weak voice, "Gosh, I don't think I can go on. This malignant spirit is too evil. It cut me in half and wore me like a cloak."

After saying this, the ghost turned into a wisp of vanity aura, and the jar of souls then absorbed it.

Lilly's Inner Demons

Zachary was astounded. He immediately thought of the game characters, such as Helen of Troy, Luna, and Cleopatra, but none of them could match Lilly at this point.

"Sister," Zachary uttered as he moved over, not realizing that he was now addressing Lilly differently.

Lilly was panting. She urged, "Zac, don't come here. Stand at the side."

The slick ghost immediately turned to shoot at the air next to Lilly after hearing this. He could not see Zachary, so he had to rely on a wild guess. Then he viciously pounced at Zachary.

"Holy crap!" Zachary gasped in disbelief. His body had turned stiff.

In the nick of time, Lilly kicked Zachary out of the way. For the first time, Zachary appreciated getting kicked. The first thing he did was cover the talisman on his forehead before cowering in a corner and remaining motionless.

Slick Ghost was skilled at evading and hiding. When one of his schemes failed to work out, he immediately went into hiding once more.

"Whoa!" Lilly exclaimed in surprise.

Does this slick ghost have a magical artifact with him? How did he vanish into thin air?

Aman unexpectedly emerged from the other tightly closed door as Lilly was considering this.

In a harsh, deep voice, he chastised, "Lilly! Move your ass over here!"

Lilly froze when she heard this voice. She stared blankly at that man when she saw that the man who walked out the door was Stephen, her foster father.

"Dad..." Lilly wanted to call him 'daddy' instinctively, but she shut her mouth at once.

Stephen sneered icily, "You're so great now. You have become the beloved daughter of the Crawfords. You have a battle Daddy too. I suppose you wouldn't recognize me as your father any longer, would you?"

He took one step after another, closer to Lilly, and he growled, "You ingrate! I've had to endure a great deal of hardship raising you. How did you pay me back? You not only refused to give me a comfortable life at the Crawfords, but you even permitted your uncle Anthony to put me in jail! Do you believe you would have survived to be three years old without me?"

Stephen stared at Lilly. The look in his eyes was filled with resentment. He provoked, "Aren't you a ghost tamer? Come on, if you have the nerves, come and get me!"

Instinctively, Lilly moved backward. She recalled her time spent with the Hatchers at this precise moment.

She wanted a hug from her father after her mother died, but he pushed her away impatiently. She joyfully selected a lovely flower from the garden and gave it to her father, who promptly threw it in the trash. In the freezing, snowy yard, he forced her to her knees and nearly beat her to death.

Pablo's heart sank as he observed this. This turned out to be Lilly's inner demon. She was only three years old when her mother passed away, and her father abused her. Perhaps her time spent with the Crawfords

helped her forget her traumatic past over time, but the memory of her painful upbringing and the suffering she endured would always linger.

Slick Ghost was indeed cunning. He appeared to have thought of everything. He even brought Stephen's Lilly's Inner Demons

spirit with him.

Stephen's spirits had not fully dispersed, even though he had been made into "clothes". Stephen was still conscious. He was accusing Lilly with resentment, "You're to blame for my misery! Yes, I hit you. But doesn't every father hit their children? No matter how terrible I was, I raised you up!"

Stephen suffered a horrible death. After his death, Blake scattered his ashes.

What was the purpose of this? This action, where Blake scattered the ashes after Stephen's death, ensured Stephen was stripped of the opportunity to enter the afterlife and would not be able to reincarnate. His spirit would wander between heaven and earth until nothing was left. Why could he end up being so miserable while Lilly had such a good life?

Lilly muttered while shaking her head, saying, "No, I didn't. It's not my fault."

She summoned up the courage to cast a defiant gaze at Stephen. She said, "You brought it on yourself with your wrongdoing. There is no such thing as a father having to hit their children; you are a liar."

Stephen was taken aback. He roared indignantly, "How dare you talk back to me!"

He did the same as he did when he was alive. Without hesitation, he reached for something and hurled it at Lilly fiercely.

Lilly no longer endures it as she once did. Instead, she skillfully avoided it. There was a determination in her eyes; she was no longer the helpless child who stood by and let this man beat her.

Lilly doing this only made Stephen angrier. He yelled and lunged at her, "I'm going to devour you alive!"

Pablo was sweating nervously. He doubted Lilly would have the will to murder Stephen. This might have been the hardest decision she had to make. Stephen was correct in one sense— he did play a part in raising Lilly. Should such a "father" be killed? How do children perceive such a father?

Pablo did not have to wait long. He saw Lilly raise her hand as Stephen lunged forward; the red bracelet on her wrist then released a red light, knocking Stephen backward.

Stephen screamed in agony as he violently crashed into the red net.

Lilly had set up an extensive containment net in this room. No ghost could escape from this room; everything depended on Lilly's choice.

Stephen vomited blood that was shaped by his vanity aura. He looked extremely miserable.

Lilly silently observed him from a position not far away.

Stephen suddenly had a dejected expression and let out a miserable smile. He chuckled and said,

"Hehe, you have grown up now. You even dared to hit your father now. Lilly, when you were a baby, I adored you dearly. You were my little darling. Never mind; I should stop talking. Just finish it up! Kill me. You should kill me, and it will make you happy, right? I will be happy to die at your hand."

Stephen closed his eyes and appeared to have seen right through everything.

Just wait! Others may not understand Lilly, but didn't I have a solid understanding of who she was? She had yearned for my love since she was a young child. There was no way she could harm me!